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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a digital video data signal (DVS) containing data relating to rectangular pictures, said method of processing comprising a segmentation step (SEG) for segmenting the digital video data signal so as to provide segmented video data signals (SVS), a segmented video data signal containing a video object (VO) which is a region of the rectangular picture, ~~characterized in that~~ said method of processing comprises:

- an identification step (ID) for identifying with an identifier to which video object of the segmented video data signals a pixel of the rectangular picture belongs, and
- an insertion step (INS) for inserting the identifiers into the digital video data signal so as to form a modified digital video data signal (DVSm) to be encoded by a video-object-based encoding framework,

wherein the digital video data signal is defined by the recommendation ITU-R BT.601-5 and the insertion step (INS) comprises a first sub-step of inserting (ADP) the identifiers into an ancillary data packet as defined in the recommendation ITU-R BT.1364, and a second sub-step of inserting (VBS) the ancillary data packet into a vertical blanking space of the digital video data signal at a row level.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a digital video data signal (DVS) as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the identification step (ID) is adapted to assign an

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identifier coded on two bits to a given pixel of the rectangular picture.

4. (Currently Amended) A device for processing a digital video data signal (DVS) containing data relating to rectangular pictures, said processing device comprising means for segmenting (SEG) the digital video data signal so as to provide segmented video data signals (SVS), a segmented video data signal containing a video object (VO) which is a region of the rectangular picture, ~~characterized in that~~ said processing device comprises:

- means for identifying (ID) with an identifier to which video object of the segmented video data signals a pixel of the rectangular picture belongs, and
- means for inserting (INS) the identifiers into the digital video data signal so as to form a modified digital video data signal (DVSm) to be encoded by a video-object-based encoding framework,

wherein the digital video data signal is defined by the recommendation ITU-R BT.601-5 and the inserting means (INS) are adapted to first insert the identifiers into an ancillary data packet (ADP) as defined in the recommendation ITU-R BT.1364, which is subsequently inserted into a vertical blanking space (VBS) of the digital video data signal at a row level.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) A processing device as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the identifying means (ID) are adapted to assign an identifier coded on two bits to a given pixel of the rectangular picture.

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7. (Currently Amended) A digital video data signal as defined by the recommendation ITU-R BT.601-5 comprising ancillary data packets as defined in the recommendation ITU-R BT.1364, an ancillary data packet being accommodated in a vertical blanking space of the digital video data signal at a row level, wherein characterized in that the ancillary data packet comprises identifiers corresponding to video objects, said video objects resulting from a segmentation process of rectangular pictures contained in the digital video data signal.